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SUBJECT: HUMANITARIAN/RECONSTRUCTION SITUATION REPORT #1 24
MARCH 2003

SUMMARY

[¶11.](#) This is the initial USG Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) daily cable that will report on the humanitarian situation within Iraq from Kuwait City. End Summary.

DART ARRIVALS

[¶12.](#) Team West is fully constituted with the arrival of NGaertner and JAcree. On 22 March the following DART members arrived in Kuwait: SHodgson, JPonte, CGarrett, SBrown, and JGeran.

FOOD

[¶13.](#) There are several outstanding issues concerning the Australian contribution of 100,000 metric tons (MT) of wheat. A shipment of 50,000 MT was diverted to Muscat, Oman. The second half of the shipment arrived in Muscat on 24 March. The Government of Australia is discussing the possibility of donating the 100,000 MT to the World Food Program (WFP) once the emergency operation (EMOP) is issued. Ongoing negotiations between Canberra and WFP continue over support costs, estimated at between 15 and 25 million USD.

[¶14.](#) There is significant interest in having the USG's financial support in this first shipment of wheat. The USG's role will be to contribute the missing support costs and secure the double billing (US-Australia) of this donation. The arrival of these two wheat shipments, and the enormous interest in the Persian Gulf region to demonstrate that an efficient process is in place to move incoming food quickly into Iraq, will accelerate the timetable for gaining humanitarian access.

OFFICE OF TRANSITION INITIATIVES (OTI)

[¶15.](#) Radio Sawa is operational on the AM band and will eventually switch to the FM band. Reporting stringers and radio specialists have been identified to highlight the USG's overall humanitarian efforts within Iraq. OTI officers briefed DART/Kuwait staff on the role of Abuse Prevention Officers (APOs) on 23 March.

[¶16.](#) On 22 March, the DART APOs met with representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) in Kuwait City. Several weeks of coordination and collaboration with representatives of both organizations had taken place in Washington, D.C. prior to the APOs' deployment. ICRC and PHR representatives stressed their support of the DART's Abuse Prevention strategy and intend to work closely with APOs in Iraq. Close coordination also continues between the DART and the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance (ORHA) in order to develop plans for preventing, deterring, and responding to human rights abuses within Iraq. Another coordination meeting with NGOs AND ORHA is being scheduled for the week of 23 march. The APOs are also actively engaging with U.S military Civil Affairs units and are arranging a meeting with Generals Garner and Kern to discuss their initiatives.

REFUGEES

¶17. There are no significant refugee flows out of Iraq to date; however, more than 400 third country nationals (TCNS) have crossed into Jordan. The International Organization for Migration facilitated the repatriation of 160 Sudanese TCNS on 21 March, and an additional 160 Sudanese were expected to return to Sudan on 22 March.

MILITARY LIASION UNIT

¶18. Approximately 70 people, including Coalition Forces Land Component Command (CFLCC) Civil Affairs Officers and representatives from the United Nations, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), attended the Humanitarian Operations Center (HOC) briefing on 22 March. The following information was provided at the briefing: there have been no major population movements around Basra; UNSECOORD is weighing the possibility of going to Phase 5 due to potential chemical threats from Iraqi surface-to-surface missiles; the missile threat has been reduced following forward ground movements deeper into Iraq.

¶19. The CFLCC C9 Commander stated that Maneuver Commanders will make the decision to allow DART teams into permissive environments within their AOR. He also had no problems allowing DART to work with Maneuver CA elements doing damage assessments.

¶10. The Liaison Officer from the 354 CA HQ plans to locate at the DART Hotel location after the last serial leaves. A CA Liaison Officer will be embedded with the DART staff to facilitate information, coordination, and movement forward with CA elements throughout Iraq.

¶11. According to Military Liaison Officer (MLO) reports, the Kuwaiti Red Crescent was prevented from crossing into Iraq on 22 March. ICRC agreed with the order, stating that it was the role of ICRC and not the Kuwaiti chapter.

¶12. The Dart/Kuwait MLO will facilitate with the marine expeditionary force (MEF) and the U.K. third Commando on DART movement into Umm Qasr when the Dart Leader is satisfied that security has been established at the port.

CIVIL AFFAIRS ASSESSMENT OF UMM QASR/SAFWAN

¶13. Civil Affairs assessment teams conducted a rapid assessment of the Port of Umm Qasr between 19 March and 22 March. The loading cranes have been maintained and are functioning. There was also a functioning fire truck in excellent condition among more than 20 civilian vehicles, indicating the potential for vehicle maintenance.

¶14. The port facility comprised multiple buildings and warehouses, all containing civilian vehicles. Reports indicated that the port was fully functional, by Iraqi standards. The local commander stated that the port contained sea mines, but was unaware of any land mines. However, one land mine was visible in the field outside of the base.

¶15. The port contains countless standard-sized containers, both on rails and on the ground. No equipment to manage and move this equipment was noted. There were also blue cranes, three in one frame, approximately 100 plus feet high, as well as several stationary cranes, approximately 50 plus feet high. The main high power lines, running west from the port to Safwan, appear intact. These high power lines are 3 levels high.

¶16. Outside of Umm Qasr towards Safwan, several homes were visible from the road. The homes were inhabited by poor Bedouins prior to the assault, and the local people are reported to have begun returning.

¶17. As of 1100 hours 23 March, the road to Safwan from Umm Qasr was completely intact. The Gas Oil Separation Plant along the route also appeared intact, as did the homes in and around Safwan. The people of Safwan appeared healthy, although extremely poor. No internally displaced persons were seen.

¶18. No additional humanitarian assessment information is available.

ANE - RECONSTRUCTION

¶19. On March 23, Ambassador Jones introduced ORHA Director

Garner, Relief Coordinator George Ward, and USAID's Lewis Lucke to high-ranking Kuwaiti officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Kuwait Fund FOR ARAB ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT to describe the USG's plans for relief and reconstruction in Iraq. The Kuwaiti officials described their own process of economic recovery after the 1991 liberation and spoke of the importance of economic sector reform in Iraq. Kuwait may prove an early source of investment for post-conflict Iraq.

¶20. Responsibility for leads in Iraqi Ministries has been re-delegated by ORHA on instructions from the Department of Defense (DOD). The inter-agency process had previously assigned responsibility for Iraqi Ministries among various U.S. Departments and Agencies. USAID was tasked for the lead for the Ministries of Planning, Transport and Communication, Agriculture, Education, Health, Housing and Construction, Labor and Social Affairs, Irrigation and the Electricity Commission. Under the new ORHA plans, individuals are recruited from various agencies, predominantly State and DOD, to serve as the senior Ministerial liaisons. This group will include five Ambassadors. These individuals will report to the appropriate ORHA function coordinator, either Lewis Lucke or Michael Mobbs. The liaisons reporting to Lewis Lucke are as follows: a) Planning - Ambassador Dave Dunford-Robert MacLeod/USAID to serve as interim; b) Transportation and Communication - Dick Beard/State - Mike Moskowitz/DOD to serve as interim; c) Finance - David Nummy/Treasury; d) Agriculture - Lee Schatz/USDA; e) Education - USAID Contractor - Dorothy Mazaka/USAID to serve as interim; f) Health - Skip Burkle, USAID; g) Housing and Construction - TBD - Mark Held/COE to serve as interim; h) Labor and Social Affairs - TBD - Karen Walsh/USAID to serve as interim; i) Irrigation - TBD - Stephen Browning/COE to serve as interim; j) Central Bank - George Mullinax/Treasury; k) Electricity Commission - TBD - Andy Bachus/COE to serve as interim.

JONES